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United States Patent [19]

Butler et al.

[11] Patent Number: **5,133,731**[45] Date of Patent: **Jul. 28, 1992**[54] **EMBOLUS SUPPLY SYSTEM AND METHOD**

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[58] Field of Search **606/200, 195, 198, 151, 606/108, 191; 604/104; 128/831, 843**

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[57]

ABSTRACT

An apparatus and method is provided for dispensing coil emboli one at a time in a controlled and reliable manner during surgery to embolize several blood vessels or the like in a body. The apparatus includes a magazine that is movable within a dispenser housing to position each of the embolus cartridges contained in the magazine one at a time at a dispensing station on command. A stream of pressurized fluid is injected or a guide wire is inserted into the embolus cartridge held in the dispensing station to dislodge an embolus contained therein and discharge it into an embolus-delivery catheter coupled to the dispenser housing. Afterwards, the magazine is moved within the dispenser housing to remove the just-emptied embolus cartridge from the dispensing station and load a fresh embolus cartridge into the dispensing station.

48 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

